

## FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

WINTER WALK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, STATEN  
ISLAND. FROM PLEASANT PLAINS 'TO  
KREISCHERSVILLE. 21 PRESENT

We were fortunate in having for this winter field-trip the only real winter day of the entire season. A temperature of only 10°–15° F. throughout the day and a snowfall of 3 or 4 inches during the previous night made cross-country walking over the frozen ground easy. A fire and hot coffee tended to reduce shivering. In this region, pines were well represented; *P. Strobus* by a stand of large trees near the bridge road, *P. rigida* by scattered individuals, and *P. virginiana*, the objective of the trip, by about 50 trees (some up to 50 ft. in height and 1½ ft. in diameter) in a cat-brier jungle. Only a half dozen trees of *P. virginiana* had last year's cones, but cones of previous years were abundant. The station is probably the northernmost for the Virginia Pine. Other points of special interest were the barrens covered in places by bayberry bushes, *Myrica carolinensis*, with a great quantity of berries; groves of sweet gum, *Liquidamber Styraciflua*; and a single medium-sized tree of the rare red birch, *Betula nigra*, growing in a small swamp south of the stand of *Pinus virginiana*.

H. K. SVENSON

### THE INWOOD-PALISADES WALK OF SUNDAY MARCH 9

47 members and guests present.

Before skirting Inwood's northern shore line, we stopped to study some of the winter buds of *Ailanthus glandulosa*, *Morus alba*, *Quercus alba* var. *latiloba*, *Q. velutina*, *Q. bicolor*, and *Q. coccinea*, the while taking note of a picturesque "Gum" tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*). This surprising group at 204th Street and 10th Avenue constitutes one of the few remaining stands of native growth on northern Manhattan. Typical of the fast disappearing vacant lots of Gotham, here were colonies of *Ailanthus*, with the *Ailanthus* Silk-moth cocoons (*Philosamia walkeri*) festooned about and dangling within easy reach, offering particular delight to some of the younger members of our group. It was with interest that I found this cocoon on the

mulberry tree and also on a young elm close by. The proposed introduction of a silk industry into America over fifty years ago was necessarily abandoned when it was learned that the silk from these cocoons was not of high grade; the silk can not be reeled, but is carded and then spun into a coarse material.

As we went through Cooper Street, a Japan Pagoda Tree (*Sophora japonica*) was an object of unusual interest to many who had never before seen this valuable tree. It was still bearing much of the fruit which formed a heavy crown earlier in the winter. In the Orient the flowers, buds, bark, roots, and wood of this species are utilized commercially, and even the pods produce an important medicine. A good specimen of *Broussonetia papyrifera* near by was also illuminating to the student, inasmuch as this particular tree showed to advantage both opposite and alternate buds.

Passing over much historic ground we entered Inwood Park where close by as recently as 1925 was unearthed the lower jaw of a mastodon. The commencement of the magnificent stand of tulip trees greeted our sight here, and several cameras were focussed on a most unique object, a young black birch growing out of the trunk of one of these superb Liriodendrons. We examined the very beautiful bursting buds on *Ulmus fulva*, noted the tortuous branching of old Sassafras trees, and found the new plants of *Leonurus Cardiaca*. Paulownias with their upright panicle flower-bud clusters attracted attention.

It was a bit early in the season to hope for many migrant birds but already the "Red-wings" were up, and our customary winter residents were heard and seen from time to time. The marsh on the way to the "Great Tree" was resplendent with the staminate catkins of *Alnus rugosa*; and we were surprised to come upon *Symplocarpus foetidus* in an advanced stage. In all likelihood this is the last showing of the species on Manhattan Island. Presently we came to Shora-kap-kok, the dell which is replete with Indian lore and where there is now an Indian Museum. The Museum was opened for us, and Mr. Reginald Pelham Bolton, historian of Inwood, told of the efforts to preserve the spot and to bring back some of the wild-flower life to the region.

Spirits were high and the day fair, and many who had not before crossed these paths marvelled at the variety of woody

plants: the splendid oaks, noticeably *Quercus montana*, also *Q. borealis* and *Q. velutina*; here a brilliant *Cornus Amomum* or there a *Benzoin aestivale* about ready to flower, and revealing on careful search the cocoons of the Promethea moth. Further search brought to view a few Cecropias near by.

Upon reaching the extreme northern limit of Inwood Hill, we passed a number of fine ornamental trees, remnants of another era: *Pinus nigra*, showing the "scars" of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, an interesting *Fraxinus excelsior* with its black winter buds, *Magnolia Soulangeana*, and *Pinus sylvestris*.

Half way over the Hudson we saw Black Ducks on the river, and along with them a few American Mergansers. The golden disks of *Tussilago Farfara* in great profusion greeted us upon our arrival at the Palisades. *Stellaria media* in bloom formed carpeted mats in still greater abundance. Elms were in full bloom, flower buds swelling on *Acer rubrum* and *Sassafras variifolium*, and every indication of an early Spring was at hand. Those who had come to collect specimens were delighted to find the large stand of *Equisetum hyemale* var. *affine* with newly formed strobili. *Geranium Robertianum* was freshly green in the interstices of the rocks, and "escapes" told the tale of former habitations: *Heimerocallis fulva* and *Ornithogalum umbellatum* pushing their way up; and further along *Philadelphus coronarius*. *Viburnum Opulus*, probably var. *americanum*, *V. acerifolium*, and *V. prunifolium* still bore last year's fruit. The vivid pistillate flowers of *Corylus americana* were in their prime, and buds of *Staphylea trifolia* were showing signs of Spring along with *Sambucus racemosa*.

Song sparrows were in heavy migration and caroling from tree and bush at every bend of the trail. Buttermilk Falls of Green Brook made an impressive sight, bordered with ice, and had developed a flourishing colony of *Conocephalum conicum* on its flank. The Carolina Wren, a permanent resident of the Palisades, was heard at intervals, and Duck Hawks were seen soaring near the rim of the Cliffs. More tulip trees in the rich woods brought to mind again the story of their unique vernality.

It was with regret that we left the scene of our trip, for enthusiasm was still unabated, particularly amongst the large number of young people, the youngest of whom was twelve

years old. This leads me to wonder—Why not A JUNIOR BRANCH OF THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB, for the embryo botanist—THE BOTANIST OF TOMORROW!

HELENE LUNT  
*Inwood-Manhattan*

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 1930

The meeting was called to order at The New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P. M. by President Denslow. The minutes of the meeting of January 7th, were read and approved. Thirty-five members were present.

The following were unanimously elected to membership in the club:

Mr. B. R. Abbott, 27 West 44th Street, New York City; Mr. J. E. Adams, 115 West 68th Street, New York City; Mr. F. M. Cota, 3846 Cherokee Street, San Diego, California; and Prof. Kingo Miyabe, Hokkaido Imperial University, Sapporo, Japan.

The resignation of Mrs. Ellis Parker Butler was accepted.

The auditing committee have gone over the treasurer's accounts and found them in excellent order and correct. The report of the auditing committee was accepted.

Dr. Arthur Harmount Graves spoke on "The Recent History and Present Status of the Chestnut."

The subject was discussed under the following headings:

1. The value and varied uses of the American chestnut.
2. The natural range of the species.
3. The condition of the chestnut during the past century, particularly in the southern states.
4. The chestnut bark blight.
  - a. Discovery in 1904 by Herman W. Merkel, in New York Zoological Garden.
  - b. First study by Dr. W. A. Murrill.
  - c. Spread of the disease.
  - d. Penna. Chestnut Blight Conference, 1912.
  - e. Controversy over source of fungus: a native or an introduced species?